

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 01 June 2001
 Name of applicant/court: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
 Applicant to the Labelling Body: Leader Home Entertainment
 Title of Publication: Unspeakable
 Other Known Titles: Not Stated
 Director: Chad Ferrin
 Producer: Chad Ferrin
 Publisher: Not Applicable
 Author: Not Applicable
 Format: DVD
 Country of Origin: USA
 Language: English

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Components of film originally examined:

Menu: Creature Presentation
 Interactive Troma
 Coming Distractions
 Tempting Tromabilia
 Play

Feature: Unspeakable Running time: 80.45

Other Moving Components: Copyright Warning Notice Running time: 0.29
 Tribe Notice 0.13
 Troma Entertainment Notice 0.28
 Sex Dept. 1.48
 Executive Washroom 3.21
 Violence Dept. 0.55
 Wardrobe 3.04
 Boardroom 1.06
 Special FX 3.19
 Theatrical Releasing Info 0.45
 Soundstage 1.00
 Script Dept. 1.21
 Gateway To Troma 2.28
 The Toxic Avenger 3.05
 Sgt. Kabukiman N.Y.P.D. 3.37
 Aroma Du Troma 2.00
 Public Service Announcement 2.48

... Please turn over

Total Running time: 113.24

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has not been given.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The DVD entitled *Unspeakable* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The classification is due to the manner in which the publication treats matters of sex, horror, crime, cruelty and violence. The feature is a tragic psychological thriller about a serial killer. It is blackly humorous but the comic relief provided does not impact greatly on the overall tone. Viewers are likely to take this nihilistic publication, which revels in unspeakable acts and depictions, seriously. A high level of gratuitous sexualised violence focuses on female victims who are murdered in contexts which draw attention to them as sexual beings. The publication also contains coercion in association with sexual conduct, sexual conduct with children and young persons (including dialogue relating to incest) and scenes in which a child is restrained, threatened sexually, and forced to watch her mother engaging in sexual activity. A mute quadriplegic is raped by her caregiver. There is also a scene where a priest physically mistreats and sexually molests a young person in a religious context.

The publication has been considered in light of the extent and degree to which and the manner in which it deals with matters of gratuitous violence, violence and coercion in association with sexual conduct, sexual conduct with children and young persons, and physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting cruelty and pain, as outlined above. These matters are considered under the criteria of s3(3)(a)(i), s3(3)(a)(ii), s3(3)(a)(iv) and s3(3)(a)(v) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993VPC Act.

In view of the manner in which the DVD presents the elements outlined above, the Classification Office finds that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. Excisions to this publication are not able to be considered as the DVD format cannot be excised. If the publication were in video format, excisions to content of the feature as noted above would be considered.

A classification of objectionable places a restriction on the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act). However, by virtue of the way in which the publication deals with matters of violence, violence and coercion in association with sexual conduct, sexual conduct with children and young persons, and physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting suffering cruelty and pain, and as excisions are not a viable option, this publication is regarded as objectionable. The Classification Office considers this a reasonable limit as outlined in s5 of the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 100542